Laundering Money for ULFA

1936. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA has established an extensive net-work of companies in Bangladesh to act as fronts for laundering money and stashed away more than Rs. 600 crore in a leading national bank in the country and if so the details thereof; and

(b) whether the matter was taken up with Government of Bangladesh to check the activities of ULFA in that country if so, what is the reaction of Government of Bangladesh with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Reports indicate that ULFA has commercial interests in Bangladesh and indulges in activities prejudicial to the security interests of India. Reports also indicate that bank accounts are being operated by insurgent groups in Bangladesh. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh and they have assured that they will not allow negative elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

Purulia Arms Dropping Case

1937. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent revelation made by the Prime accused in the purulia arms drop case that the U.K. Government had complete prior knowledge of that arms drop and his contract to carry out the missions and also about his being instructed by the U.K.'s defence export service organisation to carry on with the deal; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The purulia arms drop case is sub judice as the same is being tried by the competent Court at Calcutta.

Secretary level talks with Bangladesh

1938. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-day Home Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh were held in November, 1998 in Dhaka to take effective action to curb the activities of the insurgents from across the border, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 23rd November, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations between them and the outcome thereof particularly to curb the activities of smugglers, criminals and touts as well as exchanging of information about them; and

(c) whether Bangladesh has assured India that no body would be allowed to use the Bangladesh soil for anti-India activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The third Home Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh were held between November; 21-23, 1998 at Dhaka. The discussions on issues of mutual concern to both countries included security related issues, cross border movement, visa regime, boundary demarcation, trans-border crimes